

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|--------------------|
| STATE: Illinois |
| COUNTY: Cook |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Jewelers' Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
15-19 South Wabash

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicago

STATE:
Illinois

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
7th-Congressman Gardiss Collins

CODE: 17

COUNTY: Cook

CODE: 031

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Percy Wilson Mortgage & Finance Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 North La Salle St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicago

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
17

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Cook County Recorder of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
118 North Clark Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chicago

STATE:
Illinois

CODE:
17

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois

COUNTY: Cook

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jewelers' Building with exterior walls of brick, terra cotta, and iron has five stories above a basement. Its facade is divided into a wide center bay between two smaller end bays. The windows in the central bay are further sub-divided by cast iron mullions into three openings on the second to fourth floors, and into six on the fifth floor. The masonry portion is designed in a highly polychromatic red brick, terra cotta, and stone. The Jewelers' Building has a flat roof which slopes slightly. An ornamental parapet completes the design of the facade. The building has a frontage of approximately 60 feet on Wabash Avenue and a depth of 160 feet.

The major part of the ornament is concentrated under the arch of the central bay, and at the corners of the building. Cast iron ornament originally graced piers, now removed, on the first floor. The architectural decoration comes from Sullivan's first period of ornament (1873-1890), phase two (1880-1883). For the most part, the ornament consists of stylized plant forms that are carefully and rigidly delineated. The motifs do not overlap and are seen against a smooth ground.

On the interior, the columns bear no relationship to the facade. The beams run north and south across the building, while the arches are oriented along the east and west transverse axis. There has been considerable remodeling on the interior. The exterior on the ground floor has been completely remodeled.

HISTORY

The building at 134 Wabash (new number 15-19 South Wabash) was designed in 1881 by Adler & Sullivan. It was one of four buildings this firm designed for Martin Ryerson, an early Chicago businessman and real estate investor. Shortly after completion, the building was rented by Samuel A. Maxwell Company, a stationary store. According to Martin A. Ryerson, son of the original owner, the building was not named when finished. Therefore, it must have been at some later time that it acquired the name Jewelers' Building. The building cost \$90,260 in 1881-82.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------|
| STATE | |
| Illinois | |
| COUNTY | |
| Cook | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

Representation in Existing Surveys - continued

Illinois Historic Structures Survey

October, 1972 (State)

Records at: Glesner House, 1800 South Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Major Bibliographical References - continued

Randall, Frank A. The Development of Chicago Building Construction. Urbana:
The University of Illinois Press, 1949.

"Martin Ryerson Obituary", The Chicago Tribune, September 7, 1887.

Rudd, J. William, comp. Historic American Buildings Survey: Chicago
and Nearby Illinois Areas. Park Forest: The Prairie School Press, 1966.

Sprague, Paul E. "The Architectural Ornament of Louis Sullivan and his
Chief Draftsman". (An unpublished doctoral dissertation, Princeton
University, April, 1968).

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1881-82

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jewelers' Building is one of five structures (plus one remodeling soon) to be demolished) still standing in Chicago's Loop designed by the internationally famous early modern architects, Louis Sullivan and Dankmar Adler. As the only remaining commercial building by that firm from the early 1880's, the Jewelers' is especially significant. In no other building is the polychromatic character of the firms' work so clearly revealed. The Jewelers' Building is also very important because of the large quantity of very early ornament by Sullivan still to be seen on its facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The American Architect & Building News, Vol. X (July 2, 1881).
 Condit, Carl, The Chicago School of Architecture. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1964.
 Gilbert, Paul, Chicago & its Makers. Chicago: Felix Mendelsohn Publisher, 1929.
 Marquis' Handbook of Chicago, 1884.
 Nickel, Richard, "A Photographic Documentation of the Architecture of Adler & Sullivan". (An unpublished masters thesis from the Illinois Institute of Technology, June, 1957).
 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 41° | 52' | 53" |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 87° | 37' | 33" |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Susan Karr Sorell, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Structures Survey DATE: December, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
1800 South Prairie Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: I7

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name ANTHONY T. DEAN, Director

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date December 28, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ILLINOIS HISTORIC SITES SURVEY INVENTORY

CK-H-82

✓ 200819

1. Name of Site:

Common Jewelers' Building

Historic

2. Location:

Street and Number 15-19 S. Wabash

Township

Section

City or Town Chicago

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

County Cook

3. Classification:

Category (check one)

Integrity (check one)

District Building
 Site Structure

Altered Unaltered
 Moved Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status (check one)

Private
 Public

Occupied
 Unoccupied
 Preservation work in progress

Access to Public

Yes Restricted Unrestricted No

Present Use (check one or more)

Agricultural Industrial Religious
 Commercial Military Scientific
 Educational Museum Transportation
 Entertainment Park Other
 Government Private Residence

5. Ownership of Property:

Owner's Name

Phone Number

Street and Number

City or Town

State

County

Zip Code

6. Description:

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated
 Ruins Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation underway? Yes No

ARCHITECTURE

7. Historical Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Pre-Columbian) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Site | (Post-Columbian to 1673) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Influence | (1673-1780) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Frontier | (1780-1818) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Early | (1818-1850) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois Middle | (1850-1900) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Late | (1900-present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famous People | (give names & dates) |

8. Specific Date: 1881

Areas of significance (check one or more of the following)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal (pre-historic) | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)

Use additional sheets if necessary. Designed by Adler & Sullivan for
Martin Ryerson. National Register

9. Form prepared by:

Name and Title: _____ Date: 6/24/75

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Street and Number: _____

City or Town: _____ County: _____ Zip Code: _____

During the course of the Survey we often find it necessary to search for a particular site. When filling out the Survey form, please list according to the following example, published references to the site for which forms are being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly deduct from the Survey's task.

Bibliography

Robertson, Robert, Of Whales and Men. New York, Alfred K. Knopf, Inc., 1954.

National Register material.

